

# Columbia MD Family History Center Temple and Family History Consultant In-service Training Letter, Sep 2017

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## Things to Know

We store some things in the top left drawer in the Admin Desk.

In case you need them we have the following in the back of the drawer:

- 1 GB Flashdrives that can be sold to patrons for \$2.50 each. More flashdrives have been ordered and will be arriving any day now.
- A camera mount
- AA batteries

In the front of that top left drawer there is:

- A notebook with general information that you can use (I need to make sure it is up to date)
- The spiral notebook that we try to keep available for you to share ideas, experiences, problems etc. Diana especially appreciates getting patron success stories.

We do also have a camera available for use. Right now it is locked up in the small cupboard in the Microfilm Reader Room. We think that currently Diana is the only one who uses the camera. If there is a need, we can move the camera to a different location and make it available to everyone.

## End of the Microfilm Era (not quite)

Although patrons can no longer order microfilms, our FH Center continues to have a fine collection of 3,500+ microfilms, all of which are now on indefinite loan. There is a link to our list of long-term microfilms on our Columbia, Maryland FHC wiki website ([https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Columbia\\_Maryland\\_Family\\_History\\_Center](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Columbia_Maryland_Family_History_Center)) under section 3.3 Reference Library. Whether at the center or at home, patrons (and staff, of course) can search to see what films we hold. Likewise, patrons can use the FamilySearch, Search, Catalog for what the Family History Library in Salt Lake holds, with icons to indicate which films have been digitized; they can be seen from any computer in the world. To date, about half of those films have been digitized, chosen from the films most frequently borrowed. The rest of the holdings are currently scheduled to be digitized by the end of 2020.

Once a microfilm has been digitized, it is eligible to be indexed, and in the meantime, patrons can view the images one by one, rather like using a computer screen as a microfilm reader. A patron will always have this means of access. However, once a film has been indexed, its contents can be searched by keyword (for example, name, date, location), allowing the patron to find the image of a desired record more directly. About 2 Billion of the images held by the Family History Library have already been digitized, with more being released every month due to the efforts of indexers around the world.

## Who, What, When, Where

What can patrons do to make more sense of the source records collected in Family Search for any of their ancestors? Picking up on the way Ancestry.com displays the attached sources as a timeline, patrons can arrange the sources for each ancestor in DATE order, forming a timeline. Unfortunately, most of the source records do not have a DATE in their title. One of the secrets of FamilySearch is that patrons are free to edit the title line of source records! SUGGESTION: edit the titles of source records to answer the questions **WHO**, **WHAT** (kind of record), **WHEN** (the DATE the documented event occurred), and **WHERE**. Once all of the source records have a DATE on them, it is easy to click and drag the source records into date order. It is at that point that a researcher can determine which source records are missing (such as a gap in the census--see the list of reasons to attach all the census records for every person in your family in the August Newsletter)

## Teamviewer

A great way to respond to questions about specific issues in Family Tree is to use TeamViewer to see on your computer what a patron is seeing on his or hers. A link to instructions for downloading and establishing a TeamViewer session are now on the MD-Columbia Family History Center Wiki page, under “5 Helps for Temple and Family History Consultants.”

## TreeSeek.com and Filtered Queries in FamilySearch

One of the FamilySearch Companion Apps with a link on all of our computers is **TreeSeek.com**. One of the app’s strengths is that it is able to launch queries in FamilySearch tailored to the specific person and US Census year. A researcher can further tailor a query, if necessary, by adding the state of birth and either the name of the spouse or the names of the parents (sometimes only the first name of the mother since her maiden name will probably not appear in a census).

## RootsTech: 28 Feb-3 Mar

Now is the time to consider attending Roots Tech in 2018. Good news! Individuals with a family history calling are eligible to attend at a discounted rate. Anyone with an LDS family history calling can purchase a full, four-day RootsTech 2018 conference pass for \$129—just use the promotional code **18CALLING** during registration. Lunches can be ordered during registration. You will be on your own to arrange transportation and lodging for the event.

Visit [RootsTech.org](https://RootsTech.org) for more information or to register.